[Shri Sukomal Sen]

it is a fleet of some aircraft owned by a particular person or a group of persons. A number of times these aircraft have been detained by the VVIPs for their foreign tour not only this time but the last time also the same thing happened and as a result of this many flight schedules were upset and many flights were cancelled. It caused tremendous hardship to the passengers. These passengers were booked for London or elsewhere to foreign countries. At the last moment their flights were cancelled saying that they cannot fly. They were told that they have to fly by some other carriers. That was also not certain. It creates tremendous hardship to the passengers. So the Government should take care.

Now, Madam, the point is that it is not only a question of loss but also the credibility of Air India. On that day I found in the newspapers that the Managing Director of Air India had come out with a statement saying that it did not cause any financial loss to the Airline because the Government was making up the loss by way of payment. When the passengers are booked for London, Dubai or anywhere by this airliner at the last moment they were told that the Prime Minister or President or anybody else would fly somewhere and so your flight is cancelled, then, how people will rely on this airline? That is the main point. Have you ever heard any time that KLM flight or Lufthansa flight or the British Airways flight being cancelled because the Queen or the President or the Prime Minister of those countries will fly and that is why the number of flights are cancelled in those airlines? Have you ever heard? Nobody ever heard that any foreign airliners have cancelled their flight because VVIPs of their countries are flying. So, this is something astonishing that is happening in our country as if it is the personal property of someone. That is why, I would request that we should purchase the recuired number of aircraft carriers. The Government is spending lavishly money for many things. The Government is paying kick-backs, receiving kickbacks. What is the difficulty in procuring some more aircraft and receiving some more kickbacks? They can have some more aircraft, some jets or some more aircraft they can have and earn money also in the process. So, I would request that the Government may spend money and acquire aircraft so that passengers are not put to hardship. If it is not done, it will cause a loss of credibility of the Air India. It is our national flag carrier. It should be recalled and remembered by the Government. That is why, I request through you, Madam, that the Government should take care of it and in future, this thing should not happen.

Technical defects in 'Pawan Hans' helicopters

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Madam Deputy Chairman, I have also to talk unfortunately about aircraft but I am talking about helicopter. This Westland helicopter has had a series of situations where some helicopters have crashed, some have endangered lives, in some cases, engines have failed and so on. Madam, recently, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Westland helicopter of this type was carrying three Ministers and one of the engines failed. There was a loud noise and it had to land. Similarly, one of the helicopters had crashed at Vaishno Devi and some pilgrims were killed. Now a question arises whether this helicopter is suitable to operate at these heights or not. But what I would urge upon the Government is to check whether this helicopter is suitable at these heights and whether it is a suitable aircraft by itself for operation in hot and cold conditions that we have in our country. Madam, although Westland is a very well known manufacturer, re-

cently, a number of cases have come to light in which the fleet that we have already in India from them, perhaps, 40 to 50 per cent of that fleet is already grounded for one reason or the other. I would like the Government of India as well as the DGCA to very carefully look into this matter and come with a full report to see that the lives of the passengers who are travelling by Westland helicopters are not endangered.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I am on a point of order. There is no Minister in the House. Let us stop the proceedings. It is an insult to the House. Summon the Prime Minister here. The Prime Minister should be summoned... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam, may I suggest, please adjourn the House for some time. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Let us adjourn the House. (*Interruptions*)..

उप सभापति सुनिए -सुनिए..... (व्यवधान) आप मेरी बात को सुनिए।

एक माननीय सदस्य : महोदया, यह हाउस का अपमान है। .....(व्यवधान)

उप-सभापति : आप मेरी बात तो सुनिए जब तक कोई मिनिस्टर नहीं आते हैं हम सदन की कार्यवाही रोकते हैं।... (व्यवधान)

No, I am not adjourning. We will wait till the Minister comes.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Why are you not summoning the Prime Minister?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now you can continue, Mr. Kapil Verma. ..(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I am on a point of order. The Government side must apologise for it. The Minister must apologise. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He must apologise. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): I am sorry. I went inside to meet the Chairman. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Where were your other colleagues? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about the Minister on roster duty The Minister is supposed to be on roster duty. Where is he? ..(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): Who is the Minister on roster duty?

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I assure the House that I will ensure the presence of the Ministers on roster duty in the House. (*Interruptions*). I am sorry for their absence. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, all of you, sit down, please. Mr. Kapil Verma.

Reported acquisition of nuclear submarines by Pakistan from China

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I want to raise an important issue. Great concern has been caused to the country by reports that Pakistan is acquiring as many as three nuclear submarines from China. To add further to our anxieties, the latest news is that China is giving several F-7P planes to Pakistan.

According to the "Defence and Foreign Affairs Weekly", active negotiations have already taken place and Pakistan may take its navy into the nuclear age with the Chinese-built